

NOTES ON LEGISLATIVE LEADERSHIP MEETING

March 24, 1959
8:30 a.m. -- 10:45 a.m.

Present were:

President Eisenhower

Vice President Nixon

Sen. Dirksen
Sen. Kuchel
Sen. Bridges
Sen. Saltonstall
Sen. Williams

Rep. Halleck
Rep. Arends
Rep. Byrnes
Rep. Hoeven
Rep. Leo Allen
Rep. Taber
Rep. Richard Simpson

Sec. Flemming
Under Sec. of State Dillon
and Mr. Macomber
Asst. Sec. of Labor Newell Brown
Director Stans, Budget
Dr. Saulnier, CEA
Mr. John Patterson, OCDM

Gen. Persons
Mr. Morgan
Mr. Hagerty
Mr. Harlow
Mr. McCabe
Mr. Anderson
Mr. Wheeler
Mr. Chesney
Mr. Gruenther
Mr. Kendall
Mr. McPhee
Dr. Paarlberg
Mr. Merriam
Mrs. Wheaton
Mr. Warrington
Mr. Minnich



SUMMARY

Federal Standards for Unemployment Insurance - Mr. Merriam reported on the President's meeting with Executive Committee of Governors' Conference and on Administration position opposing uniform standards.

Regarding Federal legislation for improving this program, Rep. Byrnes and Sen. Williams urged that the Administration do no more than suggest desirability of such, for pressure to enact would bring on uniform standards legislation.

Imports of Electrical Machinery - Sen. Dirksen and Mr. Halleck reported grave concern on this subject, and the President responded regarding complexities of the question. Mr. Patterson (OCDM) indicated study made of

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next campaign. It was felt that many Republicans simply might not speak to this subject one way or the other, whereas its supporters could give it a boost as urged by Dr. Flemming.

Accrued Expenditures - Mr. Stans again noted the action of the House Appropriations Committee negating the legislation approved last year for Accrued Expenditure Accounting. He hoped that the Senate would be able to restore the necessary language. He did not want to maintain that there was any magic in this but he did believe it was an effective management tool. Sen. Saltonstall reported considerable Democratic opposition to this and urged Mr. Stans to consider carefully the way in which support might be developed.

Macmillan Meeting - The President commented briefly on his discussions with Mr. Macmillan, characterizing them as a very fine meeting, particularly since it was a matter of old friends getting together and all of the group were very good people.

The President suggested that it might be a good idea to begin to try to get Britain and Canada, Australia and New Zealand all together with us in one great government. If that could be done there could be an end to worrying about a number of little things that can cause divisions among independent nations. In view of the fact that the United States has now gone beyond its own shores, an idea like this -- given time -- might not be too difficult to sell to either side.

The President thought this had been a very productive meeting, but of course the trade business had been difficult especially when he didn't have firm answers to these problems clear even in his own head. The President also noted the discrepancies in newspaper reports of the meeting, particularly two which Foster showed him which were diametrically opposed.

Messrs. Halleck and Arends described the effectiveness of some of Mr. Macmillan's comments when he met with certain Congressional leaders. Also, the British Foreign Minister had suggested that internal pressures in Russia were forcing Khrushchev to do some of the things he did. The President recounted some of the events of Mr. Macmillan's visit to Russia, particularly the Prime Minister's firmness and perseverance in the face of Russian rudeness -- and the way in which the Russians eventually came around.

The President recounted a theory held by some that Khrushchev, the only man in Russia who can make a decision, is at the point of actually wanting to make some decisions. Otherwise, the theory goes, there would be no explanation for Khrushchev's great interest in a summit meeting, since such a meeting is not so good a propaganda weapon as to

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justify all the emphasis. The President added that his present guess was that a summit conference would occur. However, it could be confusing if too many countries became involved, and perhaps impossible should Chancellor Adenauer change his approach to the problems.

It was agreed that regular meetings would not be held during the next several weeks because of the Congressional recess and the President's expected absence, but that arrangements might be made for a breakfast meeting during the week of April 12th.

Copies to:
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Mr. Minnich



LAM
L. A. Minnich, Jr.